

DRAFT 0.2
GUIDING IMPLEMENTATION PRINCIPLES
FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN
LBK 5/26/1998

Purpose of Implementation Principles:

The purpose of these principles is to provide guidance to the Core Team as it develops the Strategic Plan, and for consideration in implementing the Strategic Plan as it moves from ecological goals to the real world.

Principles for the Implementation Principles:

Both CalFed's "solution principles" and the goals of the Strategic Plan itself provide good frameworks from which to build the implementation principles, and bear repeating here.

The CalFed principles are that any acceptable solution will:

- Reduce major conflicts among beneficial uses of water
- Focus on solving problems in all problem areas. Improvements for some problems will not be made without corresponding improvements for other problems
- Be implementable and maintainable within the foreseeable resources of the Program and stakeholders
- Have political and economic staying power and will sustain the resources they were designed to protect and enhance
- Have broad public acceptance and legal feasibility, and will be timely and relatively simple to implement compared with other alternatives
- Will not solve problems in the Bay-Delta system by redirecting significant negative impacts, when viewed in their entirety, within the Bay-Delta or to other regions of California.

The goals of the Strategic Plan are to: (not listed in order of priority)

- Achieve recovery of listed native species with the Delta and Suisun Bay, support recovery of listed native species in the Bay Delta estuary and its watershed, and avoid the need for future endangered species listings

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To	Cindy Darling	From	Laura King		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	510.482.3020		
Fax #		Fax #			

- Rehabilitate the natural capacity of the Bay Delta estuary and its watershed to support, with minimal ongoing human intervention, native aquatic and associated terrestrial biological communities.
- Maintain and enhance populations of selected species for safe consumption and sustainable commercial and recreational harvest, consistent with above two goals
- Protect or restore a range of key, functional habitat types for biodiversity, scientific research, and other public values.

The implementation principles can be grouped into four issues: the role of science and uncertainty, the role of human, a k a economic factors, the need for adaptive management, and institutional factors.

Role of Science and Uncertainty (note: the current plan is to combine this section with the adaptive management section and put it at the end; waiting for something from John Cain et al on that)

- Integrate the best science available into the decisionmaking process, while continuing scientific research to reduce uncertainties. (Fla.)
- Maintain highest standards of scientific integrity to assure a scientifically sound ecosystem program. (Rhoads, etc.)
- Independent scientific review and open, participative planning should be integral components of all aspects of the program. (Rhoads, etc.)
- Categorize and prioritize program actions according to the level of scientific understanding and reversibility, for example:

Good understanding
Substantial uncertainty
Little or no documentation (Rhoads, etc.)

Implementing largescale restoration without understanding what works best should be avoided. (Noss, etc.)

- Restoration goals and objectives should address underlying ecological processes. (Noss, etc.)

Role of Human/Economic/"Real World" Factors

- Recognize that humans are part of ecosystems; integrate sustained economic and community activity into the management of ecosystems. (Fla.)
- Develop a shared vision of desired human/environmental conditions. (Fla.)

- Be bold, imaginative and pragmatic: recognize that actions with the least social, economic and political impacts can be accomplished most quickly and have the greatest chance of success. (Rhoads, ed.)
- Defuse "time bombs" (address problems before they come critical) (Noss, etc.); give priority to resolving human/ecosystem conflicts with major economic consequences (e.g. fish with ESA status)
- Be frugal: pick implementation strategies that achieve the greatest restoration at the least financial and human cost; develop approaches that are integrated and coordinated with the rest of the CalFed program in order to maximize efficiencies.

Need for Adaptive Management

- Use adaptive management as the mechanism for achieving both desired outcomes and new understandings regarding ecosystem conditions. (Fla.)
- Recognize and incorporate scientific uncertainty into planning decisions. As much as possible, design and treat management actions as experiments that will allow specific hypotheses to be tested under field conditions. (Rhoads, etc.)
- [Meld level of understanding principle in here?]
- Recognize that implementation course corrections are to be expected, and that scientific hypotheses must change to be useful. Develop an adaptive management approach with built-in institutional incentives for rational, scientific risk taking. (Rhoads, etc.)

Institutional Factors

- An effective restoration program will be one that minimizes conflicts with private landowners by relying on incentives to the maximum extent possible to accomplish restoration/rehabilitation.
- Land and water acquisitions should/must be on a voluntary basis from willing sellers. Partnerships between local interests and acquisition entities should be encouraged in order to utilize local expertise, increase program accountability, and build broad local support for acquisition programs.
- Land use conversions must be sensitive to concerns regarding flood hazards and effects on local government revenues.
- Recognize that broad support for the ecosystem program will depend on its linkage to other elements of the CalFed program.

- Implement management, operational and research strategies that streamline the number of entities, workgroups and committees, and reduce redundancy and duplication of effort. Be cost-effective.
- A successful program will rely as much as possible on stakeholder consensus developed in coalitions of broad based groups of both private and public interested individuals.